

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. **(Currently amended)** A method of identifying a full range of patentable patent eligible aspects of an invention from said invention having broad and narrow aspects among a plurality of invention types and a plurality of life cycle aspects, the method comprising:
 - a) defining a first aspect of said invention, selecting a first invention type of said invention, and selecting a life cycle aspect of said invention selecting a selected pair that includes one of said plurality of invention types and one of said plurality of life cycle aspects;
 - b) modifying said first aspect of said invention while holding constant said first invention type and said life cycle aspect working through a ladder of abstraction corresponding to said selected pair so as to identify one or more patent eligible aspects of said invention; and
 - c) iterating steps (a) and (b) until said full range of patentable aspects of said invention is identified a plurality of times for differing selected pairs of ones of said plurality of invention types and ones of said plurality of life cycle aspects so as to identify a range of patent eligible aspects of said invention, said differing selected pairs differing from one another and from said selected pair of step (a); and
 - d) generating a list containing at least some of said patent eligible aspects in said range of patent eligible aspects.
2. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim 1 wherein said defining said first aspect of said invention step (b) comprises at least one of the following:
 - a) drawing a picture of said invention;
 - b) defining elements of said picture;
 - c) defining a technical problem solved by said invention;
 - d) defining a business problem solved by said invention;
 - e) defining impossible problems solved by said invention;
 - f) defining technology used by said invention;
 - g) defining products created by said invention; and
 - h) defining a science needed to support said technology.

3. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim 1 wherein said modifying said first aspect of said invention includes broad aspects and narrow aspects and step (b) comprises:
 - a) asking "why" type questions leading to said broad aspects of said invention; and
 - b) asking "how" questions leading to said narrow aspects of said invention.
4. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim 3 wherein said first aspect of said invention is ladder of abstraction is worked through based on a technical problem of said invention and by wherein asking said "why" type questions will leads to a business problem of said invention.
5. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim 3 wherein said first aspect of said invention is ladder of abstraction is worked through based on a technical problem of said invention and by wherein asking said "how" questions will leads to a scientific problem of said invention.
6. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim 1 wherein said first plurality of invention types is selected from a group consisting of an apparatus, a method, an article of manufacture, a composition of matter, a functional invention, and a business process.
7. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim 1 wherein said plurality of life-cycle aspects of said invention comprises at least one of the following: said invention itself, a supplier who supplies a product or process to said invention, and a user who uses said invention.
8. **(Currently amended)** A method of identifying a full range of patentable patent eligible aspects of an invention from among a plurality of invention types and a plurality of life cycle aspects, said invention having broad and narrow aspects, the method comprising:
 - a) defining a first aspect of said invention, selecting a first invention type of said invention and selecting a life cycle of said inventionselecting a selected pair that includes one of said plurality of invention types and one of said plurality of life cycle aspects;
 - b) modifying said first invention type to a new invention type while holding said first aspect and said life cycle constant working through a ladder of abstraction corresponding to said selected pair so as to identify one or more patent eligible aspects of said invention; and

- c) iterating steps (a) through and (b) until all new invention types are exhausted holding said one of said plurality of life cycle aspects constant and exhausting all of said plurality of invention types so as to identify a range of patent eligible aspects of said invention; and
- d) generating a list containing at least some of said patent eligible aspects in said range of patent eligible aspects.

9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 8 wherein said first plurality of invention types is selected from a group consisting of an apparatus, a method, an article of manufacture, a composition of matter, a functional invention, and a business process.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 8 wherein said defining said first aspect of said invention step (b) comprises at least one of the following:

- a) drawing a picture of said invention;
- b) defining elements of said picture;
- c) defining a technical problem solved by said invention;
- d) defining a business problem solved by said invention;
- e) defining impossible problems solved by said invention;
- f) defining technology used by said invention;
- g) defining products created by said invention; and
- h) defining a science needed to support said technology.

12. (Currently amended) The method of claim 8 wherein said plurality of life cycle aspects of said invention comprises at least one of the following: said invention itself, a supplier who supplies a product or process to said invention, and a user who uses said invention.

13. (Currently amended) A method of identifying a full range of patentable patent eligible aspects of an invention said invention having broad and narrow aspects from among a plurality of invention types and a plurality of life cycle aspects, the method comprising:
a) defining a first aspect of said invention, selecting a first invention type of said invention, and selecting a life cycle aspect of the invention selecting a selected pair that includes one of said plurality of invention types and one of said plurality of life cycle aspects;

- b) modifying said life cycle aspect of said invention to a new life cycle aspect while holding constant said first aspect of said invention and said first invention type working through a ladder of abstraction corresponding to said selected pair so as to identify one or more patent eligible aspects of said invention;
- c) iterating steps (a) through and (b) until all new life cycle aspects are covered holding said one of said plurality of invention types constant and exhausting all of said plurality of life cycle aspects so as to identify a range of patent eligible aspects of said invention; and
- d) generating a list containing at least some of said patent eligible aspects in said range of patent eligible aspects.

wherein said plurality of life cycle aspects of said invention comprises at least one one of the following: said invention itself, a supplier who supplies a product or process to said invention, and a user who uses said invention.

14. (Currently amended) The method of claim 13 wherein said modifying of said life cycle step (b) comprises asking a question of what a supplier who supplies a product or a process to said invention may do with said invention once the said invention is made, wherein an answer to said question may be defined asdefines an improvement to said invention.
15. (Currently amended) The method of claim 13 wherein said modifying of said life cycle step (b) comprises asking a question of what a user who uses said invention may do with said invention once the said invention is made, wherein an answer to said question may be defined asdefines an extended invention of said invention.
16. (Currently amended) The method of claim 13 wherein said defining said first aspect of said invention step (b) comprises at least one of the following:
- a) drawing a picture of said invention;
 - b) defining elements of said picture;
 - c) defining a technical problem solved by said invention;
 - d) defining a business problem solved by said invention;
 - e) defining impossible problems solved by said invention;
 - f) defining technology used by said invention;

- g) defining products created by said invention; and
- h) defining a science needed to support said technology.

17. (Currently amended) The method of claim 13 wherein said first plurality of invention types is selected from a group consisting of an apparatus, a method, an article of manufacture, a composition of matter, a functional invention, and a business process.

18. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

- de) selecting a new invention type different from said first one of said plurality of invention types selected in step (a) so as to create another selected pair;
- ef) iterating said steps (b) and (c); and
- fg) iterating steps (de) and (ef) until all new of said plurality of invention types are exhausted.

19. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

- de) selecting a new life cycle aspect of said invention different from said one of said plurality of life cycle aspects selected in step (a) so as to create another selected pair;
- ef) iterating said steps (b) and (c); and
- fg) iterating steps (de) and (ef) until all new of said plurality of life cycle aspects of said invention is are covered.

20. (Currently amended) The method of claim 8 further comprising:

- de) modifying said first aspect of said invention selecting a new life cycle aspect of said invention different from said one of said plurality of invention types selected in step (a) so as to create another selected pair;
- ef) iterating steps (ab) and (de) until said full range of patentable aspects of said invention is identified; and
- fg) iterating steps (bd) through and (ef) until all new invention types are exhausted of said plurality of life cycle aspects are exhausted.

21. (Currently amended) The method of claim 13 further comprising:

- de) selecting a new invention type different from said first one of said plurality of invention types selected in step (a) so as to create another selected pair;

- e) iterating steps (ab) and (dc) until all said invention types of said invention are exhausted;
and
- fg) iterating steps (bc) and (ef) until all new of said plurality of invention types are exhausted.

- 22. (Currently amended)** A method of identifying a full range of patentable patent eligible aspects of an invention said invention having broad and narrow aspects from a plurality of invention types and a plurality of life cycle aspects of said invention, the method comprising:
- a) defining a first aspect of said invention, selecting a first invention type of said invention, and selecting a life cycle aspect of said invention selecting a selected pair that includes one of said plurality of invention types and one of said plurality of life cycle aspects;
 - b) modifying said first aspect of said invention while holding constant said first invention type and said life cycle aspect working through a ladder of abstraction corresponding to said selected pair so as to identify one or more patent eligible aspects of said invention;
 - c) iterating steps (a) and (b) until said full range of patentable aspects of said invention is identified a plurality of times for differing selected pairs of ones of said plurality of invention types and ones of said plurality of life cycle aspects so as to identify a range of patent eligible aspects of said invention. said differing selected pairs differing from one another and from said selected pair of step (a);
 - d) selecting a new invention type different from said first one of said plurality of invention types selected in step (a) so as to create another selected pair;
 - e) iterating steps (b) and (c); and
 - f) iterating steps (d) and (e) until all new of said plurality of invention types are exhausted;
and
 - g) generating a list containing at least some of said patent eligible aspects in said range of patent eligible aspects.

- 23. (Currently amended)** The method of claim 22 wherein said defining said first aspect of said invention step (b) comprises at least one of the following:
- a) drawing a picture of said invention;
 - b) defining elements of said picture;
 - c) defining a technical problem solved by said invention;

- d) defining a business problem solved by said invention;
- e) defining impossible problems solved by said invention;
- f) defining technology used by said invention;
- g) defining products created by said invention; and
- h) defining a science needed to support said technology.

24. (Currently amended) The method of claim 22 wherein ~~said modifying said first aspect of~~ ~~said invention includes broad aspects and narrow aspects and step (b) comprises:~~
~~a) asking "why" type questions leading to said broad aspects of said invention; and~~
~~b) asking "how" questions leading to said narrow aspects of said invention.~~

25. (Currently amended) The method of claim 24 wherein ~~said first aspect of said invention is ladder of abstraction is worked through based on a technical problem of said invention and by wherein asking said "why" type questions will leads to a business problem of said invention.~~

26. (Currently amended) The method of claim 24 wherein ~~said first aspect is ladder of abstraction is worked through based on a technical problem and wherein asking said "how" questions will leads to a scientific problem of said invention.~~

27. (Currently amended) The method of claim 22 wherein ~~said first plurality of invention types is selected from a group consisting of an apparatus, a method, an article of manufacture, a composition of matter, a functional invention, and a business process.~~

28. (Currently amended) The method of claim 22 wherein ~~said plurality of life-cycle aspects of said invention comprises at least one of the following: said invention itself, a supplier who supplies a product or process to said invention, and a user who uses said invention.~~

29. (Currently amended) A method of identifying a full range of patentable patent eligible aspects of an invention ~~from among a plurality of invention types and a plurality of life cycle aspects, said invention having broad and narrow aspects, the method comprising:~~
~~a) defining a first aspect of said invention, selecting a first invention type of said invention, and selecting a life cycle of said invention selecting a selected pair that includes one of said plurality of invention types and one of said plurality of life cycle aspects;~~

- b) modifying said life cycle aspect while holding constant said first invention type and said first aspect of the invention working through a ladder of abstraction corresponding to said selected pair so as to identify one or more patent eligible aspects of said invention;
- c) iterating steps (a) and (b) until all life cycle aspects are covered holding said one of said plurality of life cycle aspects constant and exhausting all of said plurality of invention types so as to identify a range of patent eligible aspects of said invention;
- d) modifying said first invention type to a new invention type: selecting a new life cycle aspect of said invention different from said one of said plurality of life cycle aspects selected in step (a) so as to create another selected pair;
- e) iterating steps (b) and (c); and
- f) iterating steps (d) and (e) until all new invention types of said plurality of life cycle aspects are exhausted; and
- g) generating a list containing at least some of said patent eligible aspects in said range of patent eligible aspects.

30. (Currently amended) The method of claim 29 wherein said defining said first aspect of said invention step (b) comprises at least one of the following:

- a) drawing a picture of said invention;
- b) defining elements of said picture;
- c) defining a technical problem solved by said invention;
- d) defining a business problem solved by said invention;
- e) defining impossible problems solved by said invention;
- f) defining technology used by said invention;
- g) defining products created by said invention; and
- h) defining a science needed to support said technology.

31. (Currently amended) The method of claim 29 wherein said first plurality of invention types is selected from a group consisting of an apparatus, a method, an article of manufacture, a composition of matter, a functional invention, and a business process.

32. (Currently amended) The method of claim 29 wherein said plurality of life-cycle aspects of said invention comprises at least one of the following: said invention itself, a supplier who supplies a product or process to said invention, and a user who uses said invention.
33. (Currently amended) The method of claim 29 wherein said modifying of said life cycle step (b) comprises asking a question of what a supplier who supplies a product or a process to said invention may do with said invention once the said invention is made, wherein an answer to said question may be defined as defines an improvement to said invention.
34. (Currently amended) The method of claim 29 wherein said modifying of said life cycle step (b) comprises asking a question of what a user who uses said invention may do with said invention once the said invention is made, wherein an answer to said question may be defined as defines an extended invention of said invention.
35. (Currently amended) A method of identifying a full range of patentable patent eligible aspects of an invention said invention having broad and narrow aspects from a plurality of invention types and a plurality of life cycle aspects of said invention, the method comprising:
- a) defining a first aspect of said invention, selecting a first invention type of said invention, and selecting a life cycle aspect of the invention selecting a selected pair that includes one of said plurality of invention types and one of said plurality of life cycle aspects;
 - b) modifying said first aspect of the invention while holding constant said first invention type and said life cycle working through a ladder of abstraction corresponding to said selected pair so as to identify one or more patent eligible aspects of said invention;
 - c) iterating steps (a) and (b) until said full range of patentable aspects of the invention is defined holding said one of said plurality of invention types constant and exhausting all of said plurality of life cycle aspects so as to identify a range of patent eligible aspects of said invention;
 - d) modifying said life cycle aspect of said invention selecting a new invention type of said invention different from said one of said plurality of invention types selected in step (a) so as to create another selected pair;
 - e) iterating steps (b) and (c); and

- f) iterating steps (d) and (e) until all life cycle aspects of said plurality of invention types are covered; and
- g) generating a list containing at least some of said patent eligible aspects in said range of patent eligible aspects.

36. (Currently amended) The method of claim 35 wherein said defining said first aspect of said invention step (b) comprises at least one of the following:

- a) drawing a picture of said invention;
- b) defining elements of said picture;
- c) defining a technical problem solved by said invention;
- d) defining a business problem solved by said invention;
- e) defining impossible problems solved by said invention;
- f) defining technology used by said invention;
- g) defining products created by said invention; and
- h) defining a science needed to support said technology.

37. (Currently amended) The method of claim 35 wherein said modifying said first aspect of said invention includes broad aspects and narrow aspects and step (b) comprises:

- a) asking "why" type questions leading to broad aspects of said invention; and
- b) asking "how" questions leading to narrow aspects of said invention.

38. (Currently amended) The method of claim 37 wherein said first aspect is ladder of abstraction is worked through based on a technical problem of said invention and by wherein asking said "why" type questions will leads to a business problem of said invention.

39. (Currently amended) The method of claim 37 wherein said first aspect is ladder of abstraction is worked through bascd on a technical problem of said invention and by wherein asking said "how" questions will leads to a scientific problem of said invention.

40. (Currently amended) The method of claim 35 wherein said first plurality of invention types is selected from a group consisting of an apparatus, a method, an article of manufacture, a composition of matter, a functional invention, and a business process.

41. (Currently amended) The method of claim 35 wherein said plurality of life-cycle aspects of said invention comprises at least one of the following: said invention itself, a supplier who supplies a product or process to said invention, and a user who uses said invention.
42. (Currently amended) The method of claim 35 wherein said modifying of said life cycle step (b) comprises asking a question of what a supplier who supplies a product or a process to said invention may do with said invention once the said invention is made, wherein an answer to said question may be defined as defines an improvement to said invention.
43. (Currently amended) The method of claim 35 wherein said modifying of said life cycle step (b) comprises asking a question of what a user who uses said invention may do with said invention once the said invention is made, wherein an answer to said question may be defined as defines an extended invention of said invention.
44. (Currently amended) A method of identifying a full range of patentable aspects of an invention said invention having broad and narrow aspects from a plurality of invention-types and a plurality of life cycle aspects, the method comprising:
- a) defining a first aspect of said invention, selecting a first invention type of said invention and selecting a life cycle aspect of the invention selecting a selected pair that includes one of said plurality of invention types and one of said plurality of life cycle aspects;
 - b) modifying said first aspect of the invention while holding constant said first invention type and said life cycle working through a ladder of abstraction corresponding to said selected pair so as to identify one or more patent eligible aspects of said invention;
 - c) iterating steps (a) and (b) until said full range of patentable aspects of the invention is defined holding said one of said plurality of invention types constant and exhausting all of said plurality of life cycle aspects so as to identify a range of patent eligible aspects of said invention;
 - d) modifying said first invention type to a new invention type selecting a new invention type different from said one of said plurality of invention types selected in step (a) so as to create another selected pair;
 - e) iterating steps (b) and (c);

- f) iterating steps (d) and (e) until all said plurality of invention types are exhausted;
- g) modifying said life cycle aspect of said invention selecting a new life cycle aspect different from said one of said plurality of life cycle aspects selected in step (a) so as to create yet another selected pair; and
- h) iterating steps (b) through (g) until all said plurality of life cycle aspects of said invention are covered; and
- i) generating a list containing at least some of said patent eligible aspects in said range of patent eligible aspects.

45. (Currently amended) The method of claim 44 wherein said defining said first aspect of said invention step (b) comprises at least one of the following:

- a) drawing a picture of said invention;
- b) defining elements of said picture;
- c) defining a technical problem solved by said invention;
- d) defining a business problem solved by said invention;
- e) defining impossible problems solved by said invention;
- f) defining technology used by said invention;
- g) defining products created by said invention; and
- h) defining a science needed to support said technology.

46. (Currently amended) The method of claim 44 wherein said modifying said first aspect of the said invention includes broad aspects and narrow aspects and step (b) comprises:

- a) asking "why" type questions leading to broad aspects of said invention; and
- b) asking "how" questions leading to narrow aspects of said invention.

47. (Currently amended) The method of claim 46 wherein said first aspect is ladder of abstraction is worked through based on a technical problem of said invention and by wherein asking said "why" type questions will leads to a business problem of said invention.

48. (Currently amended) The method of claim 46 wherein said first aspect is ladder of abstraction is worked through based on a technical problem of said invention and by wherein asking said "how" questions will leads to a scientific problem of said invention.

49. (Currently amended) The method of claim 44 wherein said first plurality of invention types is selected from a group consisting of an apparatus, a method, an article of manufacture, a composition of matter, a functional invention, and a business process.
50. (Currently amended) The method of claim 44 wherein said plurality of life cycle aspects of said invention comprises at least one of the following: said invention itself, a supplier who supplies a product or process to said invention, and a user who uses said invention.
51. (Currently amended) The method of claim 44 wherein said modifying of said life cycle step (b) comprises asking a question of what a supplier who supplies a product or a process to said invention may do with said invention once the said invention is made, wherein an answer to said question may be defined as defines an improvement to said invention.
52. (Currently amended) The method of claim 44 wherein said modifying of said life cycle step (b) comprises asking a question of what a user who uses said invention may do with said invention once the said invention is made, wherein an answer to said question may be defined as defines an extended invention of said invention.
53. (Withdrawn) A method of training an inventor in identifying a full range of patentable aspects of an invention, the method comprising:
- educating said inventor on what constitutes a patentable invention;
 - educating said inventor on patentable invention subject matter concepts;
 - educating said inventor on what constitutes an invention type wherein said invention type is selected from a group consisting of an apparatus, a method, an article of manufacture, a composition of matter, a functional invention, and a business process;
 - educating said inventor on what constitutes an invention life cycle aspect wherein said life cycle aspect of said invention comprises one of the following: said invention itself, a supplier who supplies a product or process to said invention and a user who uses said invention; and
 - educating said inventor on an invention scanning process said scanning process comprising identifying a full range of patentable aspects of an invention.

54. (Withdrawn) A method of documenting a full range of patentable aspects of an invention, the method comprising:

- a) interviewing an inventor wherein said interview comprises capturing a title of said invention, a brief description of said invention, inventorship of said invention, and bar dates of said invention;
- b) identifying a full range of patentable aspects of the invention; and
- c) recording said interview of said inventor.

55. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 54 wherein said recording is accomplished by any one of the following paper and pencil, computer word processing, tape recorder, and video recorder.

56. (Withdrawn) A method of reducing a documented list of inventions to a minimal group of inventions needed to capture a defined intellectual property space wherein said intellectual property space is defined by an assignee's business strategy and business drivers, the method comprising:

- a) capturing said business strategy and business drivers of said assignee by interviewing said assignee;
- b) comparing said business strategy and business drivers to said defined intellectual property space and said documented list of inventions; and
- c) selecting said inventions from said documented list of inventions, which capture said defined intellectual property space, said business strategy and said business drivers.

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